



BIDS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 Issue 1 June 2019

BIDS Critical Conversations 2019 Held



Inaugural Session of BIDS Critical Conversations 2019

"BIDS Critical Conversations 2019" was held during 28-29 April 2019 at a hotel in Dhaka. The Conference theme was "Bangladesh Journey: Moving Beyond LDC." Given Bangladesh's excellent economic performance, this year's theme draws attention to the core challenges faced that could potentially hold up our forward march. The "Critical Conversations" are intended for exchange of views in a free, frank but calm manner focusing on evidence and analysis to support arguments.

Spread over a total of six technical sessions, this year's topics included macroeconomic and financial sector health, inequality and poverty, life after LDC, quality and relevance of higher education, democratisation of the economy: visions and challenges, and industrialisation through Special Economic Zones.

The conference was inaugurated by Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP and Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Former Advisor to the Caretaker Government of Bangladesh graced the event as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary and Member, General Economics Division was present as the Special Guest. Dr. K.A.S. Murshid, Director General of BIDS provided the background context and introduced the Conference, as Chair.

The concluding plenary session, "Difficult Discussions" was chaired by eminent economist Professor Rehman Sobhan where Dr. Mashiur Rahman, Economic Affairs Advisor to the Honourable Prime Minister of the Government was present as the Chief Guest. An eminent panel of experts was present to address critical and relatively sensitive issues, on migration policy, violence against children and the implications of the emerging political economy of Bangladesh.

The conference was well attended by eminent scholars, policy makers, development practitioners, civil society members, activists, advocacy groups and journalists, and generated keen public interest. ■



Concluding Plenary Session of BIDS Critical Conversations 2019

From the Editor's Desk

The first half of 2019 was marked by two important events – inception of the Special Research Programme and holding of the annual flagship programme – BIDS Critical Conversation 2019. The Special Research Programme is an innovative initiative of the government to promote quality research by BIDS researchers, ushering in a paradigm shift in the source of research funds - from the donors to the government's own resources (ADP). This shift has allowed BIDS researchers to work on their areas of interest and on nationally important issues. As a result, the first half of 2019 saw a huge jump in the number of studies on a myriad of issues from urban life in Dhaka city to nationally representative panel data generation, to impact of compliance standards of RMG firms, to name just a few. A total of 21 studies will be carried out in two years under this programme and the first year has seen inception of 12 studies which are elaborated upon in this issue. The second event - BIDS Critical Conversation 2019 – hosted critical discussions on a wide range of issues related to "Bangladesh Journey: Moving Beyond LDC." Six technical sessions raised important questions on growth, inequality, poverty, human capital and industrialisation issues and their bearings on LDC graduations.

Like other past issues, this issue highlights a recently completed study titled "Tracer Study of Graduates of Universities in Bangladesh" which dwells on the current economic and labor market outcomes of university graduates and the potential labor market mismatch in Bangladesh. Based on the employment status of 975 surveyed university graduates of Bangladesh, this study found that unemployment rate among university graduates in Bangladesh is 38.6 per cent. Thirty four per cent of the graduates get a job within 2 to 3 years of their graduation. Only 5.77 per cent of the graduates choose to be self-employed.

This issue, for the first time, includes a list of articles published by BIDS researchers in peer reviewed journals. A total of 11 journal articles were published in the first half of 2019 – hats off to my BIDS colleagues! ■

Study Highlights

Tracer Study of Graduates of Universities in Bangladesh

[Study Team: Minhaj Mahmud (Study Director), Zabid Iqbal, Siban Shahana, Shahidul Islam, Wahid Ferdous Ibon]

This study was carried out to analyse the current economic and labour market outcomes of university graduates and relevance of university education to the requirements of the labour market in Bangladesh. The study sample consists of universities which received grants under the "Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP)," of the Ministry of Education. To know the current employment status of graduates and assess their competencies from various perspectives it conducts surveys among current students, the most recent graduates, institute or departmental heads, and employers of the graduates of these universities.

The study draws a sample from academic departments of 36 grant receiving, twenty-seven public and nine private, universities of Bangladesh. From these universities 82 departments were selected using both purposive and random sampling technique. The basic stratification criteria are based on the following academic disciplines: (1) Humanities and Arts, Social Science, (2) Business; (3) Science and Engineering; (4) Agriculture, Biotechnology and Health, and (5) Others. For the student survey, all the students currently at the semester six and eight (the third and fourth year undergraduate class) of the sampled department who were present at the day of data collection have been interviewed using a self-administered questionnaire under close supervision of the survey team members. A total of 1,574 students were interviewed. For the graduate survey, randomly selected graduates (who graduated during the 2015-2016 academic year) have been traced out and surveyed. The endeavour ends up surveying 975 graduates. Five categories of graduates in terms of their employment status were surveyed. They include employed, unemployed, not in labour force, full time and part time study and self-employed graduates. We also collected information from 82 department heads of these universities. To know the perceptions of the demand side, we interviewed 154 employers of a sample of surveyed graduates.

Questions for all four types of respondents were recorded as (i) categorical responses using Likert scale, (ii) Multiple choice questions, (iii) Dichotomous questions (i.e. yes/no responses) and (iv) Open-ended questions. In the case of categorical response questions, respondents answer to what extent they agree to a statement/question using a five-point Likert scale from fully agree to fully disagree. We also ask how much importance respondents would attach to certain criteria related to job searching, the relevance of certain training provided by the university, relevance of university degree to potential employers, etc.

Results

Based on the employment status of 975 surveyed university graduates of Bangladesh, we found unemployment rate among university graduates in Bangladesh is 38.6 per cent. Thirty-four per cent of the

graduates get a job within 2 to 3 years of their graduation. Only 5.77 per cent of the graduates choose to be self-employed. Rate of self-employment is relatively higher among male graduates than among female graduates. About 14 per cent female graduates do not enter labour market soon after graduation. Such a high rate (as compared to male) of female graduates moving out of the labor market after graduation may be explained by either pure economic factor (i.e. educated females find it worth to remain in the household activities in order to maximize their family wellbeing) or; social and cultural factors; that force them to go out of the labour market. Employability varies by the type of university. Rate of employment is higher (44 per cent) among private university graduates than public university graduates (32 per cent). More male graduates of private universities are found to be self-employed than public universities.

Interestingly, more than 50 per cent of the self-employed graduates said that they wanted to be an entrepreneur to begin with. However, 15 per cent said that they have set up own business as an alternative to "good job." It seems that once someone decides to be an entrepreneur, he/she wishes to continue (80 per cent of them) it in the future. About 15 per cent of university graduates pursue further academic degrees either on a full or part-time basis. About two third of the full/part time students do part time income earning activities (i.e. tuition, own business, etc.). About 7 per cent of the graduates are out of the labour market. Thirty-seven per cent of them have decided to study more and have not entered the labour market by choice. Another 28 per cent of them have received and rejected a job offer and went out of the job market because of low pay offer. Seventeen per cent of them got married (most are females) and stopped searching for the job. As a huge pool of graduates out of the labour force is those who wish to continue study, it can be inferred that they will join the market in the near future, after completing further education and/or training. Another finding is that about 70 per cent of the graduates out in the labour market think that a proper training is needed in order for improving their job market skills.

The rate of unemployment is higher for science graduates compared to humanities and business graduates. Although the rate of employment is also higher for science graduates (honors) than other disciplines (i.e. humanities and business), rate of employment for science postgraduates is pretty low compared to the other disciplines like humanities and/or business. Business graduates opt for further study more than science and humanities graduates do. Business students are more likely to be out of the labour force than their humanities and science counterparts.

Interestingly, there is a strong correlation between parents' education and graduate employability in Bangladesh. More than 40 per cent of the graduates whose parents have completed master's degree got a job after completing their university education, whereas this rate is almost half (21.9 per cent) in the case of the graduates whose parents do not have any formal education. Likewise, the rate of unemployment is inversely related to the parental education

in Bangladesh. Fifty-six per cent of the graduates whose fathers have no formal education are unemployed and only 27.8 per cent of the graduates whose fathers have completed master's degree are unemployed.

Majority of the employed graduates in our sample serve in the multinational sector (about 60 per cent). Among others, government and autonomous sector jobs are dominant. Only 2.7 per cent of the employed graduates went for informal sector jobs. Private university graduates get more multinational sector jobs than the public university graduates. In contrast, public university graduates get more government sector jobs than private university graduates.

Monthly nominal salary for the and graduates at the entry level varies between 28,000 BDT and 30,000 BDT. Although the average monthly nominal salary does not vary much over the type of job, it varies over the terminal university degree a graduate holds. For instance, a business post-graduate earns on average 42,240 BDT per month, whereas an arts post-graduate earns on average 33,000 BDT. We also observe that having a post-graduate/master's degree substantially increases average monthly pay, an increase by 100 per cent in some occasion (i.e. business honors vs. business masters).

We looked at the reasons for graduates to choose their current job. Thirty-five per cent of the employed graduates said that the reason for choosing their current job is that it was the best fit with their respective educational background. Another 30 per cent said that they have chosen this job due to a "good pay." Among other reasons, working conditions, reputation of the institute, good location, etc. played role in graduates' job selection decision.

With regard to skill, according to the graduates, communication in English, work Ethics, and basic computer skills are three most important skills among a set of 22 job-market relevant skills which are crucial for getting jobs. We interviewed 154 employers of the graduates who we traced out through our graduate surveys. Approximately 93 per cent of the employers in our survey reported that they were specifically looking for a university graduate while recruiting for a position. This means employers try to hire university graduates as their employee with a belief that university graduates are well prepared for jobs, in terms of skills, compared to other graduates. The employers said that overall education qualification and cognitive skills were two key factors in hiring decision of existing graduate employees. Academic degree (non-technical), personality, level of technical skills (demonstrated skill), communication skill and academic GPA are the top five skills that influence an employer to hire a new graduate. In order to be able to prioritize the areas of improvement, we asked employers to highlight the issues where focus needs to be put on by universities. In this case, we see highest percentage of employers (77.63 per cent of the cases) putting greater emphasis on communication skills, followed by the skills of use of ICT.

The statistics show that graduates mainly use the internet (online web portal) and newspaper to search for a job. Only about 15 per cent of graduates said that they used employment support service of the university. This indicates the job support service of the university is not yet an effective instrument for searching jobs. The job support service in private universities is better than public universities based on the responses provided by the graduates. Of the total graduates receiving job support service from the university, about 37.4 per cent said they receive support in the form of counseling. There is still a plenty of scope for the improvement of this job support service since only about 5 to 7 per cent of employed graduates found their job through university job support service.

Majority of the fresh graduates may not have right information about the labour market. They start looking for jobs haphazardly without having idea about the sectors to target where the employers have demand for graduates like them. This may ultimately result in a mismatch of demand and supply of skills. Though both the employers and the universities are aware of the importance and benefits of university-industry collaboration, we found serious lack of this sort of collaboration taking place in reality. Only 40 per cent (62 out of 154 respondents) of the employers were found to maintain some kind of collaboration with universities, and only about 33 per cent of them maintained such partnership on a "sustained" way. The private universities were found more active in maintaining industry linkage compared to public universities. The extent of collaboration also varies depending on which faculty the department belongs to. Students expressed concerns about the mismatch between the up to date technologies used in the industries and the lagging behind curriculum followed in the education system.

From the university side, the mostly mentioned industry collaboration channels were reviewing and updating curriculum (71 per cent), arrangement of internship for students (67.3 per cent) and opportunity to visit the workplace (58.2 per cent). For employers the key ways of collaboration comes in the form of "professional network with teachers" (69.4 per cent) followed by "recruitment of new employees (67.7 per cent). Students expressed concerns about the mismatch between the up to date technologies used in the industries and the lagging behind curriculum followed in the education system.

The mean level of the effectiveness of the AIF facilities that help to improve skills and to get a job is either close to 3 or a little over 3, implying all the facilities that have been provided through AIF are effective in improving skills and obtaining jobs. The three key facilities as responded by all employed graduates are the establishment of multimedia, facilities for effective teaching, and classroom renovation. The results also show that about 36.6 per cent of the department/institute heads said the AIF supported facilities in improving institutional quality are very effective. Twenty-eight per cent of the department heads said the AIF supported facilities are effective in improving skill and employability of students. ■

Completed Studies

Women Entrepreneurs in SMEs: Bangladesh Perspective 2017

This study mainly explores the present status of women entrepreneurs in small and medium enterprises in Bangladesh. In fact, the study was initiated with a number of objectives, which mainly revolve around the goal of understanding the sources of success of women entrepreneurs in the SMEs, socio-cultural and legal barriers and potential ways to improve the opportunities in the SME sector so that more women may become entrepreneurs. This study is based on a sample survey of 1,510 entrepreneurs as well as 6 FGDs and KIIs. In addition, the study conducted case studies of 7 successful women entrepreneurs from different sectors.

The educational status varied across sectors, for example, women entrepreneurs involved in software development, leather, pharmaceuticals, education and health sectors have relatively higher levels of education compared to the average education level in other sectors. Experience is not always necessary to start a business. Around 67 per cent of the current entrepreneurs have no prior experience of taking part in economic activities. They were housewives before starting the business. Not all women entrepreneurs are coming from business-oriented parental families, though more than half of the entrepreneurs have a businessman husband.

The highest proportion (69 per cent) of the enterprises belong to the trading category, followed by manufacturing (19 per cent) and service (12 per cent). About 96 per cent of the enterprises are sole proprietorships and solely owned by the women entrepreneurs. Women entrepreneurs employed mostly women in their business (85 per cent). The women entrepreneurs who have a business-oriented family member already in business (parents or husband) tend to be more successful. The study suggests an effective approach should be undertaken to encourage more women to become entrepreneurs, particularly emphasizing women-focused programmes for basic orientation in business and skill development. Moreover, rigorous survey is needed for both current entrepreneurs and women of comparable age who failed to become entrepreneurs or could not continue after running the business for sometime.

Final Round Satisfaction Survey of Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project

Of the five components of the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), Academic Innovation Fund (AIF), first of its kind in the country, is regarded as the cornerstone of the HEQEP. So far, the AIF has financed over 300 sub-projects across several public and private universities. These include a whole array of facilities starting from establishment of new lab facilities with modern lab equipment to capacity building of faculty and support staff.

To assess the success of the AIF from the perspective of its stakeholders and beneficiaries, this study evaluates the level of satisfaction of students, faculty members, head of departments as well as prospective employers of graduates with respect to the overall teaching, learning and academic environment in higher education institutions.

Faculty members, students, and staff appreciate the notable positive changes needed to excel in the quality of teaching and learning. Although students are not fully aware of the details of HEQEP, they observed that their class rooms have been equipped with projectors and air-conditioners. Teaching and learning environment has changed in a positive direction. Stakeholders generally are aware of the fact that this project is associated with the University Grants Commission under the Ministry of Education. They also pointed out that the overall purpose of HEQEP is to enhance the quality of teaching and learning.

Crop Diversification for Dietary Diversity and Nutrients Intake: Evidence from Bangladeshi Farm Households

Over the years, dietary diversity and vitamin A intake has been improving in Bangladesh. No improvement, however, is seen in crop diversification, per capita calorie, iron and zinc intake. Using two rounds of nationally representative survey--Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS-2011-12, 2015) data and a panel data model, this study explores the linkages, if any, among household crop diversification, household dietary diversity and per capita nutrient intake of households. This study finds that households with less concentration in rice production are more likely to diversify their consumption and there is no significant association between crop diversification and dietary diversity. However, there is a negative and significant association between dietary diversity and per capita calorie intake among farm households. On the other hand, diversity in dietary intake significantly increases per capita micro-nutrient intake (iron, zinc, vitamin-A). Moreover, household income is a strong determinant for both dietary diversity and nutrients intake. This study finds that increasing per capita income of households increases dietary diversity, per capita calorie, protein, iron, zinc and vitamin-A intake.

Gender Differentiated Impacts of Kerosene Subsidy Reform in Bangladesh

This research is based around two research questions: "How do existing kerosene or LPG subsidy policies affect the welfare, productivity and empowerment of women and girls in low-income households?" and "How might this change given a change in subsidy policy or mitigation measures?" These questions were explored using secondary data, household surveys (that reached 630 households) and focus group discussions.

What this research found is that in many cases, kerosene subsidies in Bangladesh are leaving people behind in terms of access to modern energy—households are paying more than subsidized government prices. Yet the lack of affordable alternatives for lighting results in limited options to switch away from kerosene. Where subsidies do lower prices, they entrench kerosene use, with attendant health and safety implications.

As subsidising kerosene is problematic, as the fuel is easily diverted to illegal uses, and rent seeking frequently occurs along the supply chain pushing up prices, the study suggests rather than fix the kerosene subsidies, policy-makers should direct funding toward desired outcomes rather than specific fuels. This would likely imply shifting to cash transfers or subsidising a range of lighting solutions such as solar or grid electricity, or small solar lamps.

Impact Assessment of South Asia WASH Results Programme (SAWRP): 2014-2018

The South Asia WASH Results Programme (SAWRP) was to promote and enable the sustained use of hygienic household toilets and the practice of hand washing with soap, as well as make water supply improvements in a limited number of communities.

The endline survey shows improvements in most of the measures of hygiene knowledge and practices. The observed presence of soap at handwashing facilities has increased substantially, as has awareness of when handwashing with soap needs to be practiced. There was a significant improvement in participants' awareness of the five critical times. A counterfactual is not available, and thus a direct attribution of improvements to the SAWRP programme cannot be assured.

There has also been a general improvement in the standard of sanitation facilities and practices in intervention areas between the baseline, midline, and endline. Almost all participants now use a toilet, and the practice of open defecation is rare among beneficiaries, even among the lowest wealth quintile. However, inequalities remain; the standard of toilets and its maintenance by households varies by different levels of education. It needs to be mentioned here that direct attribution of these improvements to the SAWRP is difficult because the absence of a counterfactual (an estimate of what would have occurred without with SAWRP intervention taking place) against which to compare.

South-South Ideas: Report on the Potential for Monitoring and Evaluation of Special Economic Zones in Bangladesh (2019)

The key findings of the study are as follows: The EZ programme has been met with enthusiasm by the Bangladeshi private sector, despite concerns with administrative, financial and infrastructure bottlenecks. Discussions with the private sector revealed a strong willingness to come on board. More than 20 private EZs have received a preliminary or final license and some are already operating. Developers still face bureaucratic difficulties, however, since the BEZA-led single window for administrative services has yet to be put in place within EZs. System-wide shortcomings affecting industrial development in general remain the main concern, in particular restricted access to finance for long-term investment and severely congested connective infrastructure.

BEZA-led zones are slower to develop than private ones. The EZ programme is still at a very early stage of development: rules are still being drafted and although 59 public projects have been approved, none have become operational. For now, BEZA is focusing on zone development more than monitoring, which would translate into insufficient ownership of the project by the key stakeholder. Nevertheless, the approach being taken in Bangladesh is of interest and should be followed in the international community.

The comparative analysis of SEZ development in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh unveils some stylized facts of relevance for lesson-sharing with other countries interested in SEZs. It found that in those countries, SEZs have been successful when: (a) articulated within a

broader economic strategy enjoying political commitment; (b) supported with a dedicated policy and governance framework; and (c) implemented transparently and adaptively. As demonstrated by the Indian case in particular, transparent rules taking into account all stakeholders are important to preserve public interest and ensure the sustainability of the programme. If adjustments are needed, regulators may face the challenge of correcting imbalances without stifling zone development or lessening political commitment for the programme.

Chinese SEZs can inspire programmes of other countries by their capacity to find innovative structures and evolve along with economic transformation. Chinese SEZs were first introduced as a test ground for liberal policies in a planned economy. Today they retain an exceptional level of regulatory autonomy. Over the years, China kept experimenting with the concept of the SEZ itself, introducing various types of zones to prepare the country for evolving economic challenges, from World Trade Organization (WTO) ascension at the turn of the twenty-first century to a move towards higher-end industry and services today. The influence of SEZs with Chinese characteristics on programmes of other countries is poised to grow.

Developing countries can leverage the mutually reinforcing relationship between SSC and SEZ development to spur economic transformation. As channels for South-South investment, SEZs can bridge Southern economies as they undergo structural transformation. As in the case of Bangladesh's garment sector, zones may act as catalysts for industrial transfer and additional investment once a demonstration effect has been achieved. Experienced foreign firms can also become directly involved in zone development and management. This creates an excellent learning opportunity for the host country but does not guarantee success: sustained political commitment to learning and creating an enabling environment for the zone remain necessary. Various additional models of SSC can be envisioned with regard to SEZs, such as the three Government-to-Government economic zones planned in Bangladesh with China, India and Japan.

An Analysis of the Link between Education and the First Demographic Dividend of Bangladesh

The demographic dividend results from the increasing share of working age population to total population. This phenomenon is referred to as the "First Demographic Dividend." This study examines the role of education in Bangladesh in the first demographic dividend, which is characterised by a youth bulge. This study uses a methodology that is similar to the NTA methodology and applies the Das Gupta (1993) method to decompose the dividend into an education effect and an age effect.

The study finds when the economic profiles are further disaggregated by levels of education, the Economic Support Ratio (ESR) decreases and becomes more representative. The size of the dividend is lower and driven by an age effect, and the education effect to the demographic dividend has been negative throughout the last four decades in Bangladesh. Further studies can be undertaken using a general equilibrium technique to analyse the possibility of capitalizing on the demographic dividend.

An Evaluation of BSCIC industrial Estates

The evaluation of BSCIC estates covers such aspects as plot allocation and utilisation, occupancy rate, estate turnover ratio, estate management, estate revenue generation, firm performance, etc. The study found that about 22 per cent of the allotted plots remained unutilised (the rate is 27 per cent including the un-allotted plots) due to weaknesses in enforceability of rules and regulations, problems in the selection process of entrepreneurs while allocating plots, infrastructure bottlenecks (gas/electricity connection), etc. The existing estates provide about 0.56 million jobs with negligible growth over time. Despite stagnant employment, production has been growing at a rate of 10 per cent annually, indicating increased productivity of the firms. Analysing the performance of firms operating under the estates, the study finds that their performance is comparable to the performance of SMEs at the national

level and in some cases, BSCIC estate firms' perform better than those that are located outside the estates. The better performance of BSCIC estates can be attributed to the agglomeration of businesses, which created various opportunities to share risks and returns.

The study suggests the problems or difficulties that the BSCIC estates are now facing need to be resolved on an urgent basis for the sake of better industrialisation. A big investment may also be needed to ensure uninterrupted electricity and gas supply to BSCIC estates. Otherwise, the benefits of industrial estates would not be adequately tapped. If necessary, BSCIC may consider organizational restructuring to bring dynamism in industrial estate management. Furthermore, the study recommends that BSCIC may think of carrying out a rigorous cost-benefit analysis of BSCIC industrial estates in order to examine future sustainability of these estates. ■

Ongoing Studies

Pharmaceutical Industry of Bangladesh: Prospects and Challenges

Bangladesh's export basket is heavily monopolised by the readymade garment (RMG) products. Therefore, one of our development agenda is to diversify our export. In this connection, one potential sector with high growth potential is the pharmaceutical sector. However, this sector is facing various challenges to increase export. A comprehensive study is necessary to identify the existing and future challenges of this sector and find out solutions to overcome those.

The main purpose of this study is to provide an overview of the pharmaceutical sector of Bangladesh, explore the driving forces behind the growth of this sector, and examine the status of employment in this sector, particularly in terms of gender dimension.

This study will be based on both secondary and primary data. Along with a survey of at least 20 firms of different size and category, key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs) will also be held.

Review of Rice Market of Bangladesh: Role of Different Actors and Competitiveness

In recent years, Bangladesh economy has experienced repeated volatility in prices of, among other essential things, rice. In particular, sudden rise in main staple like rice leads to dissatisfaction not only among poor but also middle-income households. Effective policy and market intervention to stabilise price of rice depends on proper understanding of the value chains and actors involved, and their power to distort market competition.

The study will clearly identify the value chain of rice from the grower level, various actors associated in milling, marketing and importing of rice and market power of the actors in different segments of the value chain. The study will indicate possible sources of market distortion that could lead to monopolistic or oligopolistic power in the market, especially at the rice milling level. This study will also discuss the potential roles of institutions like the Competition Commission to bring greater competitiveness in the market for rice.

The study will be based mainly on secondary information. Primary information will also be collected through key informant interviews (KIIs) with millers, wholesalers, aratdars, transporters of rice, and retailers in Dhaka.

Monthly Gas Usage by both Metered & Non-metered Single and Double Burner Domestic Gas Consumers under Different Gas Distribution Companies in Bangladesh

In Bangladesh, gas transmission, distribution and supply/marketing entities/companies are the licensees of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC).

The gas transmission and distribution companies sell gas to domestic consumers by metered and non-metered connections. However, there is no recognised method to measure the real usage of non-metered gas consumers or to measure the real volume sold to the non-metered gas consumers by the distribution companies. Concern has been raised in different public hearings about the issue. As such, a regulator of gas sector, BERC has taken steps to measure the real gas use by the non-metered households.

The broad objective of the study is to develop an average gas usage baseline of non-metered and metered domestic consumers in terms of meter type and family size. This study will also quantify the savings in gas if non-metered consumers are converted into metered ones.

The sample will include both single and double burner connections as well as small, medium and large families. The sample will be selected from each of the six companies of Petrobangla (Titas, Bakhrabad Gas, Jalalabad Gas, Poschimanchol Gas, Karnaphuli Gas, and Sundorban Gas), and from different districts of the country.

Demand-driven Policy Studies- Responding to Policy Makers and Stakeholders Requests for Urgent Policy Analysis

While policy research is widely debated, there is inadequate capacity for researchers to systematically generate research for policy makers that might be useful to them. It is no longer enough to conduct "policy-oriented" research but purposefully engage in "policy research" on the basis of a thorough understanding of the nature of demand

and then arrange suitable studies to respond to the needs of policy makers. This particular project is therefore not a single study, rather a mechanism to enable BIDS to conduct policy research quickly. There are massive hidden demands for high quality policy research at macro, sectoral and programme levels. This project will help address these issues by setting aside a small fund which can be drawn upon to launch specifically designed studies at short notice.

Desk reviews, stakeholder consultations and workshops will be conducted to assess demand of policy studies. Annually, BIDS will take up to 3 studies from the list, which will be completed within 4-6 months each.

Food Insecurity, Extreme Poverty, and Underemployment in Marginal/Backward Areas

Policymakers define backward areas for different administrative reasons, such as geographic allocation, safety net benefits, etc. In general, backward areas cover three distinct types: (i) haors, baors, beels, (ii) chars and coastal areas, and (iii) hilly areas of the country. These areas are backward on multiple counts: adverse geo-climatic conditions, poor or no physical infrastructure and human capital, and vulnerability to shocks, etc. For the purpose of this study backward areas chosen would be limited to the haor region in northeastern Bangladesh.

The objectives of this study are to estimate seasonal poverty, food insecurity, health, and nutritional status, examine how changes in seasonal food insecurity, poverty, and nutritional status are linked with the household socio-economic factors (e.g., assets, land owned, income, educational level, etc.). It will also examine linkages between labour market indicators and food insecurity as well as the reach and effectiveness of existing social safety net programmes. The study hopes to suggest specific policies to improve the situation of backward areas.

A sample of 2,000 households will be drawn for the purpose of the study. A three-round panel survey will also be conducted to understand the dynamics of short term or seasonal poverty, food insecurity, and employment.

The Urban Informal Sector: Trends, Directions, Determinants and Potentials

According to the Labour Force Survey (LFS) 2010, 95 per cent of the 56.7 million people in the labour force was employed, with 87.5 per cent of the employed population in the informal sector. Informal sector has increased at an annual rate of 4.9 per cent in the period 2000 to 2010.

This study will analyse the labour market of Bangladesh and the wage gap between formal and informal employment. The key questions of the study relate to (a) the size of the sector, (b) profile of the participants in this sector in terms of skill composition, labour status, gender, and demographics, (c) benefits to participation, (d) "formalization" as a desirable route (or not), (e) drivers of the informal sector growth, and (f) constraints faced by the sector in the medium-term.

This study will use both quantitative (questionnaire survey) and qualitative techniques (in-depth interviews, key informant interviews, focus group discussions and case studies) to gather necessary information. Qualitative

techniques will be used to substantiate the quantitative data collected from primary and secondary sources.

Baseline Satisfaction Survey for College Education Development Project (CEDP)

The Government of Bangladesh (GOB), with the support of the World Bank, is implementing a project in the National University affiliated tertiary colleges to improve their teaching and learning environment as well as to strengthen their strategic planning and management capacity. This project, known as the College Education Development Project (CEDP), is being implemented through the National University authority.

To keep account of all relevant indicators of the project and assess the satisfaction level of stakeholders about the existing situation (i.e., before the intervention is launched), a beneficiary feedback survey (baseline Satisfaction Survey) is planned to be carried out at the very inception of the project. For this purpose, students, faculties and employers of a representative sample of tertiary colleges will be surveyed. In particular, the study will address the following issues: develop profiles of the NU affiliated honours and masters colleges in terms of the current academic environment, facilities, and human resources, take account of the existing college facilities and investments, gather knowledge about employers' perception about knowledge and skills of NU graduates, measure the level of satisfaction and perception about the quality of teaching and learning environment in colleges.

The study will use both quantitative and qualitative approaches to address the above objectives.

Development Trends in 'Rural Non-Farm' - What Role Can it Play in Promoting Growth and Livelihoods

Empirical evidence suggests that productivity in the rural non-farm sector is higher than that of farms, and thus expansion of rural non-farm (RNF) sector implies growth of the rural economy as well as the overall economy. The growth of RNF not only shifts labour from farm sector, it generates additional employment for the rural workforce. This has huge implications for poverty reduction. The growth of RNF sector also slows down migration from rural to urban areas as greater employment and business opportunities are available within the rural areas. When the size of the RNF expands, it tends to create rural-towns and becomes the growth center of the local economy.

Adapting to Climate Change: Migration, Vulnerability and Livelihoods in the Bengal Delta- The Search for Effective Policy Options

The Bengal Delta, developed by sediment-laden rivers, is highly sensitive to alteration in the catchment area, the marine environment and sea-level rise. It is also prone to droughts and fluvial flooding.

The adaptive strategies of the poor population occupying this delta is fraught with problems: disaster-shelters, land-use management, household coping tactics are frequently rendered gender insensitive. Climate change often creates systemic, pervasive or surprise change, making household coping ability, especially of the women, inadequate, thus failing to increase the resilience of migrant households.

The study will examine the impacts of hydrometeorological hazard, Cyclone Aila in particular, and associated vulnerabilities, processes of migration, adaptive capacities and strategies. What are the influencing factors for deluged migration and how does it differ in case of men and women. These factors have to be analysed in a context where migration is by now a recognised household coping response to adjust to environmental and economic change. Inadequacy to do so, may perpetuate vulnerability in another area with varying impacts on men and women.

Impact of Compliance Standards on Firm Productivity in the RMG Industry

After the Rana Plaza building collapse in April 2013, which killed more than 1,100 people, mostly garment workers, North American retailers, including top brands like Walmart and Gap, formed "the Alliance" and the European retailers formed "the Accord" to undertake a five-year plan which set time-frames and accountability for safety inspections and training and workers' empowerment programmes. The Accord has so far conducted initial inspections at 1,600 factories, while the Alliance inspected 759 factories.

The broad objective of the study is to examine the impact of compliance measures on productivity and performance of RMG firms in Bangladesh. Specifically, the study will focus on different types of compliance measures, their costs and associated impact on investments, employment, revenue, market access, labour productivity, capital deepening, etc. The study will use both primary and secondary data for the analysis.

Macroeconomic Modeling

A macroeconomic model is an analytical tool designed to describe the intertwined characteristics and operation of an economy or a region. In fact, a macroeconomic modeling matrix organises matrix representation of all transactions and transfers between different production activities, factors of production, and institutions (households, corporate sector and government) within the economy and with respect to the rest of the world.

This study will focus on CGE models for the economy of Bangladesh based on an expanded SAM. However, the existing SAM corresponds to the economic structure of 2006-07 and any CGE model based prediction and policy implication made on this existing SAM would fail to make up-to-date forecasting a possibility due to the many changes that may have occurred in the production structure, factor endowment, technology and returns to factors of production since then. Thus the objective of this study is to produce an updated Bangladesh SAM embedded with an updated IO table, as well as develop a computer programme of the BIDS CGE model amenable to manipulation by in-house researchers as and when necessary.

Lessons from Development Interventions: Rigorous Impact Evaluation of Selected Development Interventions in Key Areas (e.g. Nutrition, Health, Education, etc.)

Running Head: Evaluation of the School Feeding Program (SFP) in Bangladesh

Almost every country in the world has a national School Feeding Program (SFP). The Government of Bangladesh (GoB) initiated its own school feeding program in poverty-prone

upazillas in 2010. The 3rd revised version of the project has been approved in 2017 and this amendment enabled SFP to be operated in 104 (GoB-93 and WFP-12) upazillas.

All children in pre-primary and primary schools under those upazillas receive nutrition fortified biscuits. Recently, the Inter-Ministerial Committee has endorsed the draft nutrition-sensitive "National School Meal Policy 2019" where the minimum nutrition requirements for school meals are clearly specified. This policy intervention will come along with a scaling-up of hot cooked-meal which is currently being implemented in three upazillas. Both variants of SFP are accompanied by an Essential Learning Package (ELP).

The primary objective of the study is to assess the impact of school Feeding Program (SFP) on children's educational, learning, nutritional and health outcomes.

Quantitative method will be applied on intervention and comparison groups in pre- and post-intervention periods for estimating the impact of the School Feeding Program (SFP). A quasi-experimental study design will be adopted since randomization at the individual and/or school level might not be possible.

The People of Dhaka City: Demographic Dynamics and Socio-Economic Consequences

Around one-third of the country's population, about 50 million, live in urban areas. There is an uneven distribution of the urban population between the towns and the cities, and Dhaka city alone accounts for more than 36 per cent of the total urban population in the country. The influx of migrants, as experienced by Dhaka, is creating diverse demographic, economic and social problems. An effective solution to the problems of Dhaka city, therefore, requires knowledge of the demographic, economic and social characteristics of the population at both the aggregate and a disaggregated level (i.e., for different segments/sections).

The main objectives of the study are to explore the demographic conditions presently existing in Dhaka, in particular demographic dynamics (age-sex structure, etc.) and socio-economic characteristics of this large conglomeration, and to examine the implications of such rapid demographic and socio-economic changes with regard to housing, health care, water and sanitation, education, access to services, and employment opportunities.

The study will be based on primary data collection and interviews covering 3,100 households in Dhaka city. Both quantitative and qualitative information will be used.

Comprehensive Nationally Representative Panel Data Generation

In contrast to the existing studies, the present study will draw upon the largest nationally representative panel dataset available so far for rural Bangladesh. It will build upon a panel dataset that already exists, with a sample of 6,300 households drawn from 180 villages from all over Bangladesh. The sample was drawn following a sampling design very similar to that of the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES) carried out by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS). However, the usefulness of the

existing dataset is somewhat circumscribed by the fact that it consists of only two rounds of survey over an interval of just three years (in 2010 and 2013). Such a short interval may be good enough to answer some of the questions related to poverty dynamics (for example, the effects of prices, wages, some of the safety net measures, etc.), but a longer interval is needed for a more effective analysis of poverty dynamics since many of the causal processes affecting poverty may take much longer to have their effects felt (for example, economic growth and growth-induced structural change, education, health, shocks, etc.). For this reason, the proposed research would carry out another round of survey – in 2020, giving an interval of a decade, which should be long enough to study many of the causal processes more effectively. The objective of generating a nationally representative panel over a period 2010-2020 is to assess rural poverty dynamics as well as the transformation that has taken place over time.

Development of the National Adolescent Strategy (NAS) in Bangladesh

Over one fifth or 22 per cent (over 32 million) of the total population of Bangladesh, a densely populated country in South Asia, currently fall under the 10 to 19 years age group (UNICEF (2017), an age group defined as adolescence by WHO (2014).

The main purpose of this study is to develop a comprehensive National Adolescence Strategy for Bangladesh. The strategy will need to articulate priorities and plans in context of “adolescent-sensitive responses for emergency situations, disability, ethnicity, gender, reproductive health, nutrition HIV/AIDS....enhancing tools

for generating evidence so as to support the country progress achieving its international and national commitment in regard to the 7th Five Year Plan (2016-2020),SDG (2105-2030), etc.

New Policy Responses to Extreme Poverty in Bangladesh: What Difference does It Make?

The 7th Five Year Plan of the Government of Bangladesh has also acknowledged the distinctive nature of extreme poverty and outlined special measures to address extreme poverty, closely aligned with the SDG 1 - the eradication of extreme poverty.

The study intends to track the policy processes and progress of the special measures highlighted in the 7th Five Year Plan in an effort to attribute potential reductions in extreme poverty.

In order to track progress, a series of linked research activities are proposed

- Research activity 1: It includes analysing available secondary data in order to ascertain whether or not the inclusion of special measures in the 7th Five Year Plan has resulted in additional policy responses to extreme poverty.
- Research activity 2: It includes conducting 15-20 semi structured interviews with relevant stakeholders, purposively sampled on the basis of their experience or responsibility in terms of extreme poverty policy formulation and implementation.
- Research activity 3: opportunistically look for and analyse data from micro surveys that are available and fit for purpose. ■

Workshops and Seminars

Dissemination Workshop on "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) organised a dissemination workshop on "Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh" on Thursday, 9 May 2018 at Lake Shore Hotel, Dhaka.

Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP and Honourable Minister, Ministry of Planning was present as the Chief Guest. Mr. Richard Ragan, Country Representative, World Food Programme was present as Special Guest.



Dissemination Workshop on Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals in Bangladesh

The workshop spread over a total of four technical sessions titled "Consumption, Nutrition and Health," "Local Economy Wide Impact, Income and Employment," "Poverty

and Vulnerability," and "Life Histories of the Forcibly Displaced Rohingyas." Papers were presented by Dr. Paul Dorosh from International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Dr. Binayak Sen, Dr. Mohammad Yunus, Dr. Mainul Hoque, Dr. Golam Nabi Mozumder, and Mr. Md. Riaz Uddin - all from BIDS.

It was attended by eminent scholars, policy makers, development practitioners, civil society members, activists, advocacy groups and journalists, and generated considerable public interest.

Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS chaired the inaugural and closing sessions, highlighting the need to find a way to enable the Rohingyas to attain their aspirations to live as a Nation.

Inception Workshop for "Special Research Programme for the Government of Bangladesh

Ministry of Planning, Planning Division conducted a day long Inception workshop for "Special Research Programme for the Government of Bangladesh" on 30 January 2019. A total of 21 studies will be carried out under this programme by the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) over the next three years.

Mr. M. A. Mannan, MP, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh inaugurated the workshop as the chief guest.

Professor Dr. Shamsul Alam, Senior Secretary and Member, General Economics Division (GED) and Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS were present as special guests. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr. Ziaul Islam, Senior Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning. Researchers from BIDS presented their intended research proposals in three technical sessions.

Launching Ceremony of the book "Economic and Social Development of Bangladesh: Miracles and Challenges"

The launch seminar of the book "Economic and Social Development of Bangladesh: Miracles and Challenges" was hosted by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 5 March 2019 in BIDS.



The Book Launching Ceremony

Mr. M A Mannan, MP and Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Planning, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was present as the Chief Guest. Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, Advisor to the Former Caretaker Government, graced the event as Special Guest.

Dr. Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist and Director General of ADB and Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Senior Research Fellow, BIDS, edited and presented on the book which observes Bangladesh's 'miracle' in economic and social progress. Dr. Zahid Hussain, Lead Economist, World Bank, Dr. Binayak Sen, Research Director, BIDS and Dr. Imran Matin, Executive Director, BIGD were the distinguished panelists for the panel discussion.

Mr. Hitoshi Hirata, Chief Representative, Bangladesh Office of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Mr. Manmohan Parkash, Bangladesh Country Director, Asian Development Bank (ADB) also spoke at the seminar which was chaired by Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS.

The seminar was attended by academics, stakeholders, policy makers and journalists.

BIDS Senior Fellows' Meeting Held

A meeting of BIDS Senior Fellows was held on 20 May 2019 at the BIDS Conference Room. This distinguished body represents a key window to civil society and is highly valued by BIDS. The meeting was attended by Mr. M Syeduzzaman, Professor Nazrul Islam, Dr. A.M.M. Shawkat Ali, Dr. Mushtaque Raza Chowdhury, Dr. Ahsan H. Mansur and Dr. Mahbul Mokaddem Akash. Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS made a presentation on ongoing and completed studies of BIDS, and also up dated the Fellows on issues related to staffing, finance and the newly

formed BIDS Graduate School of Economics. Senior BIDS researchers also attended the meeting. The DG welcomed everyone to the meeting and especially acknowledged his gratitude to its new members.



BIDS Senior Fellows' Meeting

A lively conversation then took place around research requirements and gaps, and strategies to breach the research-policy divide. Questions were also raised about research agenda setting and timing of flagship events, like the Research Almanac and BIDS Critical Conversations. The Senior Fellows emphasized on improving capacity to anticipate and tackle major issues in a proactive manner, identify capacity gaps and take steps to fill those, undertake collaborative research with Universities, and develop further outreach with civil society, especially the youth.

The Director General thanked members and assured them that BIDS will try very hard to respond to their suggestions, subject to staff and resource constraints.

"Bangla New Year 1426" Celebrated

"Bangla New Year 1426" was celebrated on 15th April 2019 at BIDS premise. The staff of BIDS organised a joyous and colourful cultural programme. Traditional dishes like chotpoti, sweets, lemon juice, pitha-puli, jilapi, etc. were served in the event.



Celebration of Bangla New Year 1426 at BIDS

Dr. K. A. S Murshid, Director General of BIDS, congratulated the staff for arranging this New Year celebration event successfully and wished them good health and success for the upcoming days.

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and The Bonik Barta jointly honoured young and promising entrepreneurs

Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and The Bonik Barta honoured three bright entrepreneurs for their outstanding contribution in the country's economy. This was the sixth time BIDS and Banik Barta jointly honoured young entrepreneurs at the annual award giving ceremony on 9 April 2019 at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

Honourable Planning Minister Mr. M. A. Mannan and Honourable Commerce Minister Mr. Tipu Munshi handed out the "Talented Entrepreneurs Award 2019" to Mr. Md. Abul Kalam Azad, Chairman of Azizu Recycling and E-Waste Company, Mr. Habibur Rahman Jewel, Chief Executive Officer of Moonlight Pet Flakes Industry, and Mr. Md. Mahmudul Hasan, Chairman of Rokomari.com, the online book shop.

Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS, congratulated the winners for their contribution to innovation and economy. Mr. Dewan Hanif Mahmud, editor of the Bonik Barta, also spoke at the event, which was also attended by academicians, researchers and eminent people from all walks of life.

Independence Day Celebration

BIDS commemorated the 48th Independence Day of Bangladesh on 8 April 2019 at the BIDS Seminar Room. A lively, sometimes emotional discussion took place as members from three generations shared their thoughts, views and experiences, recounted stories and read out letters written by fighters. The discussion format was unique, and a welcome departure from the usual ritualistic observance of the day that is often seen - a thoughtful, heartfelt tribute to the 1971 generation.



48th Independence Day commemoration at BIDS

Dr. K. A. S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS chaired the event. Dr. Binayak Sen, Dr. S. M. Zulfiqar Ali, Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Ms. Tahreen Tahrima Chowdhury and Mr. Shahidul Islam spoke as representatives of their generation, while Ms. Nahian Azad Shashi and Mr. Tanveer Mahmud made a short, formal presentation on the historical background leading up to the War.

The programme was designed and executed by Ms. Kashfi Ryan and her team.

BIDS Annual Picnic 2019

BIDS arranged the most awaited annual picnic on 9 February 2019 for the staff and their families. This year we celebrated the day in Pubail, Gazipur where it gave us experience of being surrounded by greenery and the beauty of nature. There were activities like cricket match and various other games for the staff, their spouses and children. The day ended with cultural programme followed by raffle draw and prize distribution. The day passed with great mirth.



Annual picnic- winning team holds the trophy

Indeed, it was day full of fun for all the staff and family, as it strengthened the bond between the members of BIDS.

BIDS Book Stall at the Ekushey Boi-Mela 2019

Dr. K.A.S. Murshid, Director General, BIDS officially inaugurated the BIDS stall in Bangla Academy on 6 February 2019, where the researchers and staffs of the institute participated.



BIDS Team at the inauguration of the Book Stall

BIDS set up its bookstall in the Bangla Academy premises this year as part of the annual "Ekushe Boi-Mela." This is an event for BIDS to create stronger links with the broader community by making our publications accessible to all. Research Reports, Policy Briefs, Journals and other books published by BIDS were available in the stall.

BIDS Mourns

BIDS announces with great sadness the sudden death of its Former Director General, Dr. Mashiur Rahman Khan, who passed away in Dhaka on 22 December 2018 due to several old age complications. Dr. Khan joined BIDS in 1960 and retired as a Research Director in 1997. Later, he served BIDS as an Acting Director General from 1992 to 1993.

BIDS Researchers at International Meetings

Dr. Monzur Hossain, Senior Research Fellow

- Participated in the conference on "Asian Economic Panel" held in Finland during 18-19 June 2019, sponsored by Bank of Finland.
- Attended the "7th Seminar on Asia and Pacific Economics" held in Suzhou, China from 30 May 2019 to 2 June 2019, sponsored by Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Japan. Dr. Hossain was invited by Xian Jiaotong-Liverpool University of China and presented his paper titled "Optimal SME Financing Strategies under Borrowing Constraints: Evidence from a Special Credit Program in Bangladesh" in the conference. The visit was funded by Asian Development Bank Institute, Japan.
- Attended the conference on "4th Energy Finance Conference" held in Zhi'an, China on 20-21 April 2019, sponsored by Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), Tokyo, Japan.
- Participated in the workshop on "Energy Efficiency Financing and Market based Instruments" held in Singapore on 25-26 March 2019, sponsored by Energy Studies Institute, National University of Singapore.
- Attended the "Conference on South Asian Economic Development" and presented his paper titled "Local Financial Development, Access to Credit and SMEs Performance: Evidence from Bangladesh" in New Delhi, India from 21 to 22 February 2019, sponsored by South Asian University, New Delhi, India.

Dr. Kazi Iqbal, Senior Research Fellow

- Participated as the presenter of paper at Conference on "Economic Development in South Asia" 7-8 January, 2019, Sri Lanka organized by Monash University, Australia and IPS, Sri Lanka

Dr. Minhaj Mahmud, Senior Research Fellow

- Conducted training sessions on RCT research design in a capacity building workshop for Bhutanese officials of the Gross National Happiness Commission and other Ministries held in Bhutan during 14-18 January 2019. The workshop was organized by the Evaluation Association of Bhutan.

Dr. Mohammad Mainul Hoque, Research Fellow

- Attended the "37th Biannual Research and Training Workshop" held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 12 to 15 June 2019, sponsored by the South Asian Network for Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE), Nepal.

List of journal articles published by the BIDS researchers (January 2019 – June 2019)

1. Italo A. Gutierrez & Krishna B. Kumar & Minhaj Mahmud & Farzana Munshi & Shanthi Nataraj, 2019. "Transitions between informal and formal employment: results from a worker survey in Bangladesh," IZA Journal of Migration and Development, Springer vol. 9(1).
2. Sarker AR, Akram R, Ali N, Sultana M (2019). Coverage and determinants of full immunization coverage among children aged 12 to 59 months in Bangladesh, BMJ Open.

3. Sarker AR, Sultana M, Ali N, Akram R, Morton A (2019). Cost of caregivers for treating hospitalized diarrheal patients in Bangladesh. *Tropical Medicine and Infectious Disease*, 4(5).
4. Sarker AR, Akram R, Ali N, Islam Z, Sultana M (2019). Coverage and determinants of full immunization: vaccination coverage among senegalese children, *medicina* 2019; 55.
5. Mahumud RA, Ali N, Sheikh N, Akram R, Alam K, Gow J, Sarker AR, Sultana M (2019). Measuring perinatal and postpartum quality-of-life of women and associated factors in semi-urban Bangladesh, *Quality of Life Research*.
6. Sultana M, Sarker AR, Ali N, Akram R et al (2019). Prevalence, determinants and health care seeking behavior of acute respiratory tract infections (ARIs) among under-five children in Bangladesh, *PLoS ONE* 14(1).
7. Sultana M, Akram R, Ali N, Mahumud RA, and Sarker AR, Islam Z (2019). Group prenatal care experiences among pregnant women in a Bangladeshi community, *PLoS ONE* 14(6).
8. Mahumud RA, Alam K, Renzaho A, Sarker AR, Sultana M, Sheikh N, Rawal LB, Gow Jeff Changes in inequality of childhood morbidity in Bangladesh 1993-2014: A decomposition analysis, *PLoS ONE* 14(6).
9. Sheikh N, Ali N, Akram R, Mahumud RA, Sarker AR, Sultana M (2019). Infant and young child feeding practice, dietary diversity and child health in Bangladesh, *Journal of Child Health*, pp 1-14.
10. Md. Zabid Iqbal, 2019. "The Effects of a Large Rice Price Increase on household welfare and poverty in rural Bangladesh," *Economics Bulletin*, AccessEcon, vol. 39(1), pages 295-309.
11. Rahman, S. H. and Pabon, M. N. (Forthcoming). "Payment behaviour to municipal service provision in Bangladesh," *Bangladesh Development Studies*.

Call for Journal Articles

Articles are invited for the 'Bangladesh Development Studies' (quarterly journal published in English) and the 'Bangladesh Unnayan Samiksha' (annual journal published in Bangla) from researchers and academics who are interested in development issues of Bangladesh and other developing countries. The topics could cover a wide range of socio-economic development issues such as agriculture, rural development, industry, population, energy, environment, education, international relations, gender and macroeconomic issues. For details on submission procedure and authors' guidelines, please visit the BIDS website (www.bids.org.bd/publications). ■

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